

Claim amendments. Please amend claim 4, as follows:

1. **(ORIGINAL)** A method for catalytically reducing nitrogen oxide compounds, comprising exposing a gas comprising nitrogen oxides, consisting of NO and NO₂, in the presence of NH₃ to a catalyst comprising an active component selected from CuO, Mn, and oxides of Mn on a hydrous metal oxide support.
2. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 wherein the catalyst further comprises a promoter component selected from WO₃ and MoO₃.
3. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 2 wherein the promoter concentration is less than approximately 5% by weight of the catalyst.
4. **(AMENDED)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrous metal oxide support catalyst further includes silica.
5. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 4 wherein the silica concentration comprises an amount effective to thermally stabilize the catalyst for temperatures up to 1000°C.
6. **(ORIGINAL)** The method of claim 1 wherein the nitrogen oxides have a concentration less than approximately 1000 parts per million.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 where in the gas further comprises compounds selected from sulfur oxides, water vapor, oxygen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and hydrogen.
8. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the presence of NH₃ occurs from the thermal decomposition of urea.
9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the method for catalytically reducing nitrogen oxide compounds occurs at a temperature greater than approximately 100°C.
10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the method for catalytically reducing nitrogen oxide compounds occurs at a temperature less than approximately 750°C.
11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the activated metal hydrous metal oxide support is selected from a hydrous titanium oxide and a hydrous zirconium oxide.
12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the catalytic reduction of the nitrogen oxides has a conversion efficiency to nitrogen of greater than 90 percent.
13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the NH₃ concentration is approximately equal to the nitrogen oxides concentration.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the oxides of Mn are selected from MnO, MnO₂, and MnO_{1.5}.
15. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the catalyst is applied to a ceramic substrate.
16. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 15 wherein the ceramic substrate is selected from a bead, a pellet, or a monolith.
17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein the monolith is a cordierite honeycomb monolith.